

Rev. Dustin Daniels | River Bible Church  
**Matthew 5:27 | A Father's Plea Regarding Adultery**  
October 30, 2022

**WELCOME:**

- Please turn your Bibles to Matthew 5.
- Bibles in the back—our gift to you.

**REVIEW:**

We continue our study now in Matthew's Gospel.

We are specifically studying Jesus's *Sermon on the Mount*.

This sermon by Jesus is the greatest sermon ever preached by the Greatest preacher ever.

We are in the part of the sermon where the topics are a bit uncomfortable for many of us.

We spent the last two weeks learning about anger—and the reconciliation needed because of our anger.

For the next two weeks, Jesus changes the topic from anger to adultery.

And then, after adultery, he moves on to divorce.

Somebody told me, "You know Dustin, you don't have to linger and dilly-dally through these passages."

In other words, get on with the good stuff—the miracles, the forgiveness of sin, and how much God loves us!

The amazing thing about preaching through the Bible verse by verse is that God won't allow us to miss the blessing of talking and learning about the hard things in life.

Especially those things that we know are hard—those that we feel guilty about because of past decisions or that we still struggle with today.

Dear friends, some of these conversations are difficult—but yet there supposed to be that way.

There's a reason you're here today.

And that reason is to know and understand the truth and grace of God's Word and how to apply it to your life.

Difficulty, trials, and tribulations are how Christ conforms and transforms us.

If we're not being changed by experiencing God verse-by-verse and sharing Jesus day-by-day—what's the point?

So it's good to wrestle with God in these areas.

I want to encourage you to run into His arms and not run away from Him as we talk about these very important issues over the next month.

Well, as I mentioned, last week we discussed reconciliation.

Reconciliation is the mending of a broken relationship.

It is to be at peace with one another.

### LW KEYPOINT:

1. Reconciliation precede worship.
2. The time for reconciliation is always *right now*. Tomorrow may be too late.

In other words, before we come to worship God, we have to get right with those people who are irritated and angry with us.

Jesus taught us how to do that last week.

### INTRODUCTION:

Today's topic is one that people are either really interested in— or shy away from.

The world worships this issue. It is its own religion.

We are inundated day and night by it.

And because we live in a world that is obsessed with it,

unfortunately, many churches either have adopted the world's view—or are so calloused by it that we don't understand its significance in our own lives.

That topic is not just ~~sex~~ but sexual sin—specifically adultery today.

On a personal note, unfortunately, I know more than I want to in this area of ministry.

I spent a decade pastoring men who struggled with some type of sexual sin in Phoenix before moving here to Cottonwood.

That ministry was formed from my own personal testimony.

Many of you know my story so I'm not going to share any of that again.

For those of you who are new, if you would like to hear my testimony, you can find it on the website in Mark 10:1-12.

The title is "Discussing Divorce."

All that to say, as I teach and preach today's message, I pray that you know that I'm for you and that I love you.

I'm not against you. I'm on your side. We're on the same team.

My prayer for you this morning is that you would hear a Heavenly Father's plea regarding adultery.

We're going to be looking at a lot of Scripture today.

And the reason for that is that when we read God's Word, we hear God's voice.

And when we hear God's voice, He's the one that provides the application as to what to do with the truth and grace that's been given to us this morning.

*\*Please stand for the reading and honoring of God's Word.\**

**SCRIPTURE: Matthew 5:27-30 CSB**

**Matthew 5:27**— "You have heard that it was said, **Do not commit adultery.**

**Matthew 5:28**— *But I tell you, everyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*

**Matthew 5:29**— *If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of the parts of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.*

**Matthew 5:30**— *And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of the parts of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.*

*\*\*This is the Word of the Lord for River Bible Church.*

### **EXEGESIS:**

**Matthew 5:27**— *"You have heard that it was said, **Do not commit adultery.***

**Matthew 5:28**— *But I tell you, everyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*

What Jesus taught about murder last week— Jesus now teaches in a similar fashion about adultery.

It's not a coincidence that Jesus puts both of these topics back-to-back in the Sermon on the Mount.

Anger and sex are two of the most powerful human experiences.

Both reach deep into the sinfulness of our hearts.

Jesus starts the same way He did with the topic of anger from last week.

*"You have heard that it was said...but I tell you."*

So, Jesus again contrasts the superficial Biblical misinterpretation of the scribes and Pharisees with His own interpretation that is both truthful and just.

**Matthew 5:27**— *"You have heard that it was said, **Do not commit adultery.***

Jesus taught about the sixth commandment last week—Do Not Murder—and now he's teaching about the seventh today.

We've all heard the jokes about how the Ten Commandments are more like the Ten Suggestions.

However, this command regarding adultery is not even a suggestion anymore.

In our culture, this commandment is ridiculously and shamefully comical.

Day in and day out, we are fed the narrative of fast-food sex.

So what I would like to do this morning is invite you into the Biblical narrative of why adultery is on God's top ten list of things not to do.

Out of all my years of marriage counseling, specifically addiction-based counseling in sexual sin, I've never heard anyone say this...

*"Ya know, committing adultery is one of the best decisions that I've ever made!"*

No one has ever said—

Instead, committing adultery is the fastest way to ruin your life.

And in a way, the world knows that...but it doesn't.

This conversation on adultery is quite a paradox.

So today, I'd like to somehow transport us out of this hyper-sexualized 21st-century world in which we live—and move us into a heavenly classroom.

Believe it or not, God says that adultery is one of the most despicable and detestable sins that someone can commit.

*If we don't make that shift, our worldview will prevent us from hearing today's lesson*

Adultery is so heinous, in fact, that it was punishable by death.


Now, that's hard for us to conceive, isn't it?

How can God be so against something that is so celebrated today?

But again, I want to invite you out of your current worldview into God's.

So let's see what He says about <sup>Adultery</sup> ~~it~~—because at the end of the day, it doesn't matter what we think about adultery...

It only matters what God says.

  
There is not one Scripture passage that gives this command regarding adultery but two.

**Leviticus 20:10**—If a man commits adultery with a married woman—if he commits adultery with his neighbor's wife—both the adulterer and the adulteress must be put to death.

**Deuteronomy 22:22**—If a man is discovered having sexual relations with another man's wife, both the man who had sex with the woman and the woman must die. You must purge the evil from Israel.

In other words, you must remove the morally objectionable behavior from the nation.

So God is sending the strongest message possible regarding the punishment for adultery.

You choose to commit adultery, you choose to die.

Not only do you choose to die, but this is a public execution.

It's an example to the nation—just in case somebody was thinking about something they weren't supposed to.

So the question becomes, "Why is adultery so wicked and repugnant in God's sight?"

Why does God command the death penalty for adultery?

Where is God's love, grace, & mercy in that?  
~~Where is this commandment's God of love, grace, and mercy?~~

And we fast forward to today, and we all know that there are no judicial consequences for adultery.

Nobody's going to jail, let alone the electric chair for committing adultery in our day and age.

In fact, the world and most churches today laugh at this statement by Jesus.

**Matthew 5:28**—But I tell you, everyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Throughout studying Jesus' Sermon on the Mount,

We're learning that Jesus is not raising the standard of marital purity— but is teaching the law as it was intended. *OT LAW*

He did it with anger last week, and today he's doing it with sex. *Adultery*  
So if Jesus isn't raising the bar on morality  
Jesus certainly isn't lowering the bar.

So what's He doing?

What are we missing?



We're missing the significance of the divinely appointed institution of marriage.

**KEYPOINT #1**

To understand the sinfulness of adultery, we must first understand the mystery of marriage.

And to understand the mystery of marriage, we have to rewind.

We have to go back to the very beginning of the story.

This conversation begins in Genesis 1 with the overview of creation.

**Genesis 1:27**— *So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female.*

Notice the word *man*.

Contrary to popular belief, this *man* is not a person named Adam!

The Hebrew word is *'ā·dām*.

*'ā·dām* means “mankind, humankind, and/or humanity.”

**KEYPOINT #1**

*'ā·dām* is a person who represents all of humanity.

*'ā·dām* is not some dude named Adam. \*

Somehow and in some way *'ā·dām* is different because he represents all of mankind.

We don't know how—it could be physically spiritually, or both.

Let's flip the page to Genesis 2 as God teaches us the specifics of humanity.

**+** **Genesis 2:7**—Then the Lord God formed the man (*'ā·dām*) out of the dust from the ground and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, and the *'ā·dām* (man) became a living being.

The word **formed** in this verse describes the work of an artist.

God is taking His time. He is in no hurry. He is enjoying Himself by creating mankind.

Back to...

**+** **Genesis 2:7**—Then the Lord God formed the *'ā·dām* out of the dust from the ground...

Dust can refer to ashes, debris, and rubbish.

It's even defined as "crumbs of the earth."

How much is dust worth? Nothing!

People will certainly pay for dirt, mud, and clay when landscaping their yard, but not dust.

People pay another person to remove the dust from their home.

Interesting, isn't it?

To think that human beings are not just made from the ground, but specifically from the dust of the ground.

Speaking of the ground . . .

**+** **Genesis 2:7**—Then the Lord God formed the *'ā·dām* out of the dust from the ground...

The Hebrew word for ground is *adamah* ('ădāmâ).

Sound a little familiar?

**+ KEYPOINT #2: 3**

From the ground, *adamah*, God creates 'ā-dām, mankind.

Mankind is a person who represents all of humanity.

Do you see the story God is telling?

**+ Genesis 2:18**—Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the 'ā-dām (man) to be alone. I will make a helper corresponding to him."

Your translation may say, "I will make a helper fit or suitable for him."

Notice that this is the first time that God states that something is not good.

Everything else was very good up to this point.

So God decides to do something about this issue.

**+ Genesis 2:21**—So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to come over the 'ā-dām (mankind), and he slept. God took one of his ribs and closed the flesh at that place.

**+ Genesis 2:22**—Then the Lord God made the rib he had taken from the 'ā-dām (mankind) into a woman and brought her to the 'ā-dām (mankind).

A lot going on in this verse.  
Let's now take a look at the word rib.

Growing up, I've always understood rib to simply be a single bone that was taken from a person named Adam.

So I placed my word/new - my opinion - on the text - not a good thing to do

However, the Hebrew word for rib is *tsela* (ṣē·lā').

**KEY POINT #4**

*Tsela* is translated “rib, side, or side-chamber.”

Your collarbone to your waist is your side chamber.

Question: Is it possible that instead of God taking one single rib bone from 'ā·dām,

God split 'ā·dām almost in half to create woman?

I always pictured this text as a very simple, clean, outpatient operation.

But as we're learning the story, is that the case?

**Genesis 2:22**—*Then the Lord God made the rib (side-chamber) he had taken from the 'ā·dām (man) into a woman...*

Is it possible that God cracked 'ā·dām wide open—nearly in half—which included flesh, bone, and, of course, blood—to create woman?

**Genesis 2:22**—... *and brought her to the 'ā·dām (man).*

The Lord is now bringing the woman to the man.

This presumes that there must be some distance between the two.

Now, let me ask you, what does this look like to you?

What event does that remind you of?

We have God (the Father) bringing a woman (His daughter) to be introduced and given away to a man.

Doesn't this resemble a father walking his daughter down the aisle to be given away to her husband?

Of course, it does! So how does 'ā·dām respond?

**Genesis 2:23**— *And the man said: This one, at last, is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh; this one will be called "woman," for she was taken from man.*

Isn't it interesting that 'ā·dām admits that woman is not just bone, but flesh and, presumably, blood as well?

Now, this is where it gets really interesting.

Have you ever wondered why the words *Woman* and *Man* are capitalized (or italicized) in this 23?

Now if you have the CSB, ~~they don't make this notation which is quite disappointing—all they do is put quotations around the word woman.~~ *Other translations include man*

The reason that *Man* and *Woman* are usually noted this way in our English Bibles is that something dramatic just happened.

The Hebrew word for woman in verse 23 is 'ishshâh (pronounced *ish-shaw'*), while this Hebrew word for *man* changed.

For the first time in the story, that word for man is not 'ā·dām.

It's *ish* (pronounced *eesh*).

We have *ish* and 'ishshâh—man and woman.

Think about this—Adam was consistently called 'ā·dām up until this point.

In verse 23, something is now very different.

He's not the same. A large part of him is gone!

It's in this verse that 'ā·dām no longer represents the entire human race,

Rather, God specifically creates two beings from 'ā·dām—man and woman—*ish* and *'ishshâh*.

Verse 23 is where God transforms 'ā·dām into Adam—a person using his proper name.

### **KEYPOINT #5:**

God uses *adamah* (the ground) to create 'ā·dām (mankind), who then becomes a man named Adam.

**Genesis 2:24**—*This is why* a man leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife, and they become one flesh.

Why does a man bond with his wife? Because she was taken from man in verse 23.

“Bonding/ Holding fast” is the concept of clinging together as one.

Verse 24 points to strategically **committed** relationship that includes sex (“becoming one flesh”).

**Verse 24** is where God defines what sex, sexuality, and gender are—and what they are not.

So let's define some terms:

### **KEYPOINT #6:**

Sex is the exclusive activity that defines the marriage relationship.

↳ becoming one flesh

In other words, it's the single activity reserved for husband and wife.

Why only husband and wife?

Let me ask it this way—What happens when husband and wife “become one flesh”?

~~Are~~ <sup>Are</sup> ~~ish~~ and ~~'ishshâh~~ ~~not~~ coming back together as one, representing 'ā·dām (mankind) where it all began.

~~They are.~~

Does this explain the natural desire for companionship between men and women?

Could it also explain the natural God-given sexual desire between men and women?

It does.

And not only that, but when you have two people made in the image of God coming together as one—these two people have the capacity to create more human life—reflecting the power of God.

Therefore, let me give you a politically correct 21st-century definition of marriage. —Crystal Clear

**KEYPOINT #5:**

Marriage: A lifelong blood covenant, established by God, between one biological man and one biological woman consummated (completed and fulfilled) with sexual oneness (Gen. 2:24).

So that's the physical aspect of marriage—.

Let's now transition to the second element of marriage—from the physical to the spiritual.

To understand the spiritual side of marriage, we must apply our systematic theology skills.

We must study God's Word throughout the Old and New Testaments and gather all that is said on this topic.

And when we do this, God also uses marriage as a spiritual illustration throughout the Bible.

He calls marriage "a mystery."

† *Ephesians 5:25—Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her*

† *Ephesians 5:26— to make her holy, cleansing her with the washing of water by the word.*

† *Ephesians 5:27— He did this to present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and blameless.*

† *Ephesians 5:28— In the same way, husbands are to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.*

† *Ephesians 5:29— For no one ever hates his own flesh but provides and cares for it, just as Christ does for the church,*

† *Ephesians 5:30— since we are members of his body.*

† *Ephesians 5:31— For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.*



**Ephesians 5:32**— *This mystery is profound, but I am talking about Christ and the church.*

We are familiar with a man being called a husband and a woman his bride, but in this text, we see a great mystery unfolding.

The apostle Paul is telling us that Jesus Christ is our Groom, and we, as His Church, are His bride.

Therefore, our physical marriages ~~here~~ are much more important than we think.

### **KEYPOINT #8**

Marriage is not only a physical union but also a spiritual reality.

**Revelation 19:7**—*Let us be glad, rejoice, and give him glory, because the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his bride has prepared herself.*

*Recap:*  
In Genesis 2, God creates the institution of marriage.

In Revelation 19, Jesus Himself fulfills the covenant of marriage in His original design.

Think of these two marriages as bookends.

God purposely weaves this theme of marriage throughout Genesis to Revelation.

Ultimately, marriage is about intimacy—both physically and spiritually.

What makes earthly marriage so special is the private, sexual union that is shared between a husband and wife.

Spiritually speaking— it's this —The idea of “knowing” one another intimately.

Believe it or not, this “knowing” is the type of relationship Jesus wants with His bride as well.

And that's why He chose to use the analogy of an earthly marriage in the first place.

Let me show you some examples.

+ **Hosea 2:19**—I will take you to be my wife forever. I will take you to be my wife in righteousness, justice, love, and compassion.

Commitment

+ **Hosea 2:20**— I will take you to be my wife in faithfulness, and you will know the Lord.

The Lord doesn't walk out the door when things get tough.

The word “know” in Hebrew is yāda'.

It's the idea that we develop a relationship both physically and spiritually through experience.

Over time, we *become* known—both in our earthly marriages and our ~~relationship with our Lord Jesus.~~

is spiritual

yāda' is used physically in...

+ **Genesis 4:1 ESV**: “Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain.”

yāda' is also used spiritually in Psalm 139:

+ **Psalm 139:1**—Lord, you have searched me and known me.

+ **Psalm 139:2**— “You know when I sit down and when I rise up;

**Psalm 139:4**— Before a word is on my tongue,  
you know all about it, Lord.

**Psalm 139:14**—I will praise you  
because I have been remarkably and wondrously made.,  
Your works are wondrous,  
and I know this very well.

**Psalm 139:23**—Search me, God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my concerns.

So to understand marriage we must ponder its mysteries.

The mystery of marriage, first and foremost, paints the picture that Jesus Christ is the perfect Husband while the Church (all believers) are His bride (Isa. 54:5; Hosea 2:19-20; Eph. 5:25, 32; Rev. 19:7-9, 21:9).

And our early marriages are designed to be a reflection of that supernatural reality.

God established marriage before the first city was ever built, before any laws were penned—before any government formed, there was marriage.

All that to say this—

First and foremost, marriage is not about us—it's about God.

Real marriage—biblical marriage—is intended to *change us* into the likeness of Jesus Christ—

Jesus Christ is the King of kings and the Lord of lords, AND He is also the Groom of all grooms.

It's through the covenantal relationship of marriage—this commitment to God and our spouse—that we find true joy, not just temporary happiness based on emotional sex.

Emotional sex is simply a drug to numb the pain of life.

Sex *by itself* doesn't make a marriage strong.

It simply adds to the overall emotional, spiritual, and physical health between husband and wife.

It's also why sex outside the marriage covenant is the fastest way to ruin your life. Adultery breaks the commitment you made to your spouse — the same kind of commitment that God has made to you. ~~And that's where adultery comes into play.~~

And this brings us full circle to our text today.



**Matthew 5:27**—You have heard that it was said, **Do not commit adultery.**

What was God saying when He initially gave this commandment to Moses?

He was saying, “don't hurt yourself.”

How many of you parents or grandparents have told your children/grandchildren, “do not...do that.”

Why? You said those stern words because you didn't want them to get hurt.

It's the same with God.

*“If you do that, if you touch that person, if you continue to think and lust like that...you will hurt yourself.”*

Rather than looking at God's commands as negative—believing the lie that God is simply a cosmic killjoy who doesn't want me to have any fun...

Is it possible that we can shift our thinking a bit today?

And for all of us to take a breath to realize that God is for us—He's not against us.

Lastly, I want to talk about the consequences of adultery.

We looked at the most explicit consequence earlier.

But Scripture is filled with other warnings of sexual sin, and I want to share these with you, *before we get to the rest of the passage next week.*

As I read these <sup>verses</sup> passages from Proverbs...

I pray you hear your Heavenly Father speaking these words to you in the most loving tone today.

**Proverbs 5:1**—<sup>NLT</sup> My son, pay attention to my wisdom; listen carefully to my wise counsel.

**Proverbs 5:2**— Then you will show discernment, and your lips will express what you've learned.

**Proverbs 5:3**— For the lips of an immoral woman are as sweet as honey, and her mouth is smoother than oil.

**Proverbs 5:4**— But in the end she is as bitter as poison, as dangerous as a double-edged sword.

**Proverbs 5:5**— Her feet go down to death; her steps lead straight to the grave.

**Proverbs 5:6**— For she cares nothing about the path to life.  
She staggers down a crooked trail and doesn't realize it.

**Proverbs 5:7**— So now, my sons, listen to me.  
Never stray from what I am about to say:

**Proverbs 5:8**— Stay away from her!  
Don't go near the door of her house!

**Proverbs 5:9**— If you do, you will lose your honor  
and will lose to merciless people all you have achieved.

**Proverbs 5:10**— Strangers will consume your wealth,  
and someone else will enjoy the fruit of your labor.

**Proverbs 5:11**— In the end you will groan in anguish  
when disease consumes your body.

**Proverbs 5:12**— You will say, "How I hated discipline!  
If only I had not ignored all the warnings!"

**Proverbs 5:13**— Oh, why didn't I listen to my teachers?  
Why didn't I pay attention to my instructors?

**Proverbs 5:14**— I have come to the brink of utter ruin,  
and now I must face public disgrace."

**Proverbs 6:20**— My son, obey your father's commands,  
and don't neglect your mother's instruction.

**Proverbs 6:21**— Keep their words always in your heart.  
Tie them around your neck.

**Proverbs 6:22**— When you walk, their counsel will lead you.  
When you sleep, they will protect you.  
When you wake up, they will advise you.

**Proverbs 6:23**— For their command is a lamp  
and their instruction a light;  
their corrective discipline  
is the way to life.

**Proverbs 6:24**— It will keep you from the immoral woman,  
from the smooth tongue of a promiscuous woman.

**Proverbs 6:25**— Don't lust for her beauty.  
Don't let her coy glances seduce you.

**Proverbs 6:26**— For a prostitute will bring you to poverty,  
but sleeping with another man's wife will cost you your life.

**Proverbs 6:27**— Can a man scoop a flame into his lap  
and not have his clothes catch on fire?

**Proverbs 6:28**— Can he walk on hot coals  
and not blister his feet?

**Proverbs 6:29**— So it is with the man who sleeps with another man's wife.  
He who embraces her will not go unpunished.

**Proverbs 7:1**— Follow my advice, my son;  
always treasure my commands.

**Proverbs 7:2**— Obey my commands and live!  
Guard my instructions as you guard your own eyes.

**Proverbs 7:3**— Tie them on your fingers as a reminder.  
Write them deep within your heart.

**Proverbs 7:4**— Love wisdom like a sister;  
make insight a beloved member of your family.

**Proverbs 7:5**— Let them protect you from an affair with an immoral  
woman,  
from listening to the flattery of a promiscuous woman.

**Proverbs 7:6**— While I was at the window of my house,  
looking through the curtain,

**Proverbs 7:7**— I saw some naive young men,  
and one in particular who lacked common sense.

**Proverbs 7:8**— He was crossing the street near the house of an immoral  
woman,  
strolling down the path by her house.

**Proverbs 7:9**— It was at twilight, in the evening,  
as deep darkness fell.

**Proverbs 7:10**— The woman approached him,  
seductively dressed and sly of heart.

**Proverbs 7:11**— She was the brash, rebellious type,  
never content to stay at home.

**Proverbs 7:12**— She is often in the streets and markets,  
soliciting at every corner.



**Proverbs 7:13**— She threw her arms around him and kissed him,  
and with a brazen look she said,

**Proverbs 7:14**— "I've just made my peace offerings  
and fulfilled my vows.

**Proverbs 7:15**— You're the one I was looking for!  
I came out to find you, and here you are!

**Proverbs 7:16**— My bed is spread with beautiful blankets,  
with colored sheets of Egyptian linen.

**Proverbs 7:17**— I've perfumed my bed  
with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.

**Proverbs 7:18**— Come, let's drink our fill of love until morning.  
Let's enjoy each other's caresses,

**Proverbs 7:19**— for my husband is not home.  
He's away on a long trip.

**Proverbs 7:20**— He has taken a wallet full of money with him  
and won't return until later this month."

**Proverbs 7:21**— So she seduced him with her pretty speech  
and enticed him with her flattery.

**Proverbs 7:22**— He followed her at once,  
like an ox going to the slaughter.  
He was like a stag caught in a trap,

**Proverbs 7:23**— *awaiting the arrow that would pierce its heart.  
He was like a bird flying into a snare,  
little knowing it would cost him his life.*

**Proverbs 7:24**— *So listen to me, my sons,  
and pay attention to my words.*

**Proverbs 7:25**— *Don't let your hearts stray away toward her.  
Don't wander down her wayward path.*

**Proverbs 7:26**— *For she has been the ruin of many;  
many men have been her victims.*

**Proverbs 7:27**— *Her house is the road to the grave.  
Her bedroom is the den of death.*

### **PREACH**

Dear friends, that's the plea from a Heavenly Father regarding adultery.

God gives us the consequences before our decision to act upon our lust.

When God says, "Do not commit adultery"—He is saying, "Do not hurt yourself."

Here's the good news.

If you have lusted, like I have—

If you have committed adultery as I have—

God's grace is bigger than your sexual sin.

You are never outside the grace of God with repentance.

How do I know this?

Because of what Jesus told a woman who was caught in the very act of adultery.

**John 8:10**— "Woman, where are they? <sup>— Accusers</sup> Has no one condemned you?"

Has anyone judged you as guilty for your adultery?

**John 8:11**— "No one, Lord," she answered. "Neither do I condemn you," said Jesus. "Go, and from now on do not sin anymore."

### PRAYER

### BENEDICTION

*Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it. (1 Thess 5:23-24)*

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